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Huntsman ends White House bid, backs Romney



Jon Huntsman waves to a room full of reporters as he leaves after announcing the suspension of his campaign for the GOP presidential nomination. (AFP)

MYRTLE BEACH (AFP) - Jon Huntsman, the former US ambassador to China, ended his struggling presidential bid yesterday and called on Republicans to unite in support of frontrunner Mitt Romney.

"I believe it is now time for our party to unite around the candidate best equipped to defeat Barack Obama," he told

supporters in South Carolina days ahead of the GOP primary in the state.

Huntsman had been running in last place in the polls ahead of South Carolina's January 21 primary, and his moderate positions had failed to draw support in a race bitterly contested by conservatives.

Time is of the essence in solving the precarious situation Of the Aruba Valero Refinery

Shortly before Christmas the government of Aruba was informed by executives of the San Antonio Valero Refinery that the Aruba Refinery was suffering quantum losses due to the international economic situation.

The message then was that a solution needed to be found rapidly that would give the refinery some perspective for its future operations. The global crude market has begun to affect refineries everywhere. However, the affect is being felt much more severely here in Aruba because of the fact that Aruba is not producing products with high value such as gasoline. The margins between the high price of crude and the price for the products produced in Aruba renders losses instead of financial gains.

In view of the reality that the Aruba Valero Refinery represents 15% of our local economy, the Aruba government decided that they should step in and be proactive. They resolved to not spare any effort to achieve some sort of cooperative strategy in the region to save the situation. Hence, the Aruba government solicited the network of Dutch Embassies in our vicinity to approach PdVSA of Venezuela and EcoPetrol of Colombia, as well as the General Consuls of Venezuela and Colombia in Aruba to attempt a cooperative strategy for the Valero Refinery in Aruba.

Towards the close of the year 2011 a delegation from PdVSA met with representatives of the Aruba Valero Refinery in Aruba



to discuss a potential relationship and an agreement for the delivery of crude over a short, medium and long term basis. This led to a dialogue with PdVSA to supply Aruba with a type of crude that meets the demands of Valero Aruba and a possible partnership between the two companies.

The Aruba government made excellent use of their recent visit to Nicaragua with Mike Eman as leader of the Dutch Kingdom delegation for the installation of President Ortega.

On that occasion they met

with the vice-chancellor of Colombia, Mrs. Lanceta. They were able to discuss a possible strategic relationship between the Colombian company and Valero.

Likewise while in Managua, the Prime Minister of Aruba met with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and spoke about the existing relationship between Venezuela's PdVSA and the Aruba Refinery.

Conversations were also held with the Venezuelan Minister of External Affairs, Nicolas Maduro.

Continued on page 4

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Aruba/Harvard Workshop: Professors Meet the Press

Yesterday morning, three full days of an Aruba/Harvard Workshop dedicated to the concepts of environment, energy and developmental Sustainability began at the Dr. Edward Cheung Innovation Center, with key administrators, ministers and seven noted professors from Harvard, TNO energy think tank and TU Delft, one of the leading technical universities in Holland.

The visiting professors took a brief break from the morning sessions to be introduced to local media by Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance, Communications, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza. Those present were George Baker, a Professor of Business Administration currently on leave from the Harvard Business School and a leader on energy storage issues; Michael J. Aziz, Professor of Materials and Technologies at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Peter Huybers, a Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences with expertise in climate science and the Caribbean; Jonathan Losos, a Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and an leading ecologist with special focus on biodiversity, David Keith, a Professor Applied Physics at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and also a Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy

School, and Henry Lee, a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School and the Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Program with particular expertise in sustainable transportation.

Professor Daniel Schrag, Director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment was instrumental in facilitating the workshop after meeting PM Eman when he spoke at Harvard last year. He will be giving a discourse on his field and findings at the University of Aruba tomorrow evening, beginning at 7:00 PM, which is open to the public, gratis.

Included in the workshops is Jan H.J. Ebbing of TNO, Dr. Ryan Peterson of the University of Aruba, and Professor Jan van der Tempel, of TU Delft, an expert in wind energy issues

The PM mentioned that the center had only opened its doors a short while ago, and they feel greatly honored to welcome such illustrious visitors for the first organized conference in the new facility. He also reiterated that the main focus of the conference is "Sustainable Development, in the sustaining the ecology... with the main focus on sustainable energy, and developing a sustainable strategy for the world, the countries, humanity, in order for us to create the conditions that for many more

centuries we can enjoy this earth, and the companionship of every one who inhabits this earth; social cohesion, social sustainability, economics that everyone can find themselves in the systems and see they are provided the necessary benefits for everyone to be able to reach their maximum potential."

In introducing Professor Schrag, the PM mentioned the

professor had shown flow charts and projections regarding melting polar caps and rising sea levels that had the Prime Minister "quite alarmed." This information will be part of Professors Schrag's presentation at the University tomorrow evening, so he did not elaborate too greatly when asked about it during the conference. However, he did mention that sea

levels are expected rise at least one meter in the coming 50 to 100 years, which would prove quite detrimental to shorefront resorts and residences. The PM said such a situation could be quite challenging for island nations; some are expected to be completely immersed and will have to evacuate their entire populations.

Continued on page 3

Irma Figaroa celebrates Silver Anniversary at Deloitte



A dinner-party dedicated to long-term commitment, was hosted by Deloitte at Johnny Yee's Asian Bistro, South Beach Centre, as the entire office crew came out to honor Irma Figaroa, on her 25th anniversary with the firm.

Irma, a most popular and appreciated team member, praised by her colleagues as an exceptional co-worker and friend, was escorted to the party by her lovely daughter and her daughter's companion. Ruben Giel, Business Leader at Deloitte had the pleasure of presenting Irma with a customary envelope and a sincere



thank you on behalf of management, in gratitude of her many years of dedication and loyalty!

Pictured here Irma and her

colleagues, enjoying a family-style celebration over signature J.H. Yees's Asian Bistro specialties.

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Aruba/Harvard Workshop: Professors...

Continued from page 2



Prime Minister Eman (c) with, l.-r., Minister de Meza, Peter Huybers, Jan van der Tempel, Jonathon Losos, George Baker, Daniel Schrag, Michael J. Aziz, and Henry Lee

When asked why Aruba is particularly attractive as a pilot project in sustainability and the testing and establishment for complete deployment of renewable energy sources, he confirmed the island's unique standing, not only because of its abundance of wind and usually steady sun. "One of the biggest challenges to renewable energy in the U.S. is cost. It is simply too expensive compared to baseline power generation which is costing a few cents to the kilowatt hour. Aruba has both the curse and advantage of having very expensive electricity; there are some islands in the U.S. with similar problems."

"Obviously it is not good to have very expensive electricity,

but it is an opportunity as well, because the cost of renewables is not the main challenge here, it is dealing with intermittencies, the reliability issues and from a technology perspective very exciting and solvable; much more difficult when you are dealing with old coal plants that are very inexpensive to run."

"The issues we are all struggling with...are a challenge for the entire world. Aruba has particular challenges but also some special opportunities; it is very exciting for us at Harvard to have gathered colleagues from engineering, sciences, public policy, business and economics who can use their different perspectives to try and understand

ways Aruba can act as a laboratory for the world. Thinking about new strategies, new technologies, new pathways for development; it is a formidable challenge but a very exciting opportunity."

Professor George Baker has had experience with the islands mentioned by Daniel Schrag; he concurs: "the opportunities for renewable development on Aruba are really extraordinary. There are some technical challenges to be addressed, but they seem they are addressable. Aruba could truly be a model to the world in terms of a sustainable place to live and work... there really is a possibility of a significant change in the energy equation on Aruba."

Dutch royals sell controversial holiday villa

Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and his wife Princess Maxima have sold their controversial holiday villa in Mozambique. The news was broken by Prime Minister Mark Rutte in a letter to MPs.

The royal couple had been trying to sell the property privately but were unable to do so "because of the state of the market". The villa was sold on 11 January for "a nominal sum" to Machangulo SA which runs the development where the villa is located. The exact price has not been disclosed.

The premises, the shares in the project and any building rights have passed to Machangulo SA which will continue to try and sell the property on behalf of the prince and princess. Mr Rutte said the move meant

that the royal couple now had "nothing more to do with the project in Mozambique".

In 2007, they bought four pieces of land on the Machangulo peninsula in Mozambique, with the intention of building a dream holiday villa as part of a larger development. As well as guaranteeing holiday privacy for themselves and their family, they wanted to help support local people through a number of projects. The villa was completed last summer.

The prince and princess decided to sell the villa in 2009 after criticism of the project grew in the Netherlands. Questions were asked in parliament about whether the heir to the throne should be involved in such a venture.

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The Aruban Association of architects and engineers announce new Board 2012

The Aruban Association of architects and engineers (ADIAA) is pleased to announce their new Board for 2012:

Chairman Ir. bert Kamsteeg; **Secretary** Ing. Ghisberto Figaroa; and **Treasurer** Anthony Matos, BSc

The ADIAA aims:

- to promote the exercise of independent advisory professions in the fields of architecture and engineering, the Aruban community in order to provide optimal safeguards with respect and impartiality of the members of architects and engineers;

- to promote a high quality of architecture and engineering;

- to represent the interests of its members.

ADIAA has been in existence for 28 years and its members have regularly contributed to the sound development of the construction, within an increasingly complex society.

The new Board intends to actively involve its members to initiate projects that are relevant to the objectives of the requirements of the Association. Also, the Board will ensure that its members adhere to its objectives and Code of Conduct.

The ADIAA calls on the government and potential investors to take advantage of the local expertise of our members in construction, after seriously considering the options offered by the various members for your specific project.

The precarious situation of the Aruba Valero Refinery

Continued from page 1

Looking back into history, it was more than 90 years ago that the Lago Oil Refinery had established a relationship with Venezuela to refine crude oil out of the Lago at Maracaibo. This establishes PdVSA as a real partner and a logical choice for the operator of the refinery in Aruba today, according to the Aruba government.

The government of Aruba also moved forward with the intent on finding a viable solution for Valero Aruba by heading off to San Antonio, Texas, to meet with top Valero executive Bill Klesse, the CEO of Valero and other members of the executive team of the Valero Refinery.

The current situation and profit margins are beyond the Aruba government and Valero. And, in December 2011 the situation looked very bleak and it appeared that within a very short while Valero could no longer absorb the losses. However, with the proactive intervention of the Aruba government there appears to be some space in the timing to allow Valero to find a rapid solution to make the company sustain-

able.

Valero is very pleased with the efforts of the Aruba government to help them find a strategic partner for the Aruba refinery. The Aruba Valero employs about 750 persons directly and her activities account for between 4000 to 5000 jobs indirectly on the local labor market. The company is well aware of this, hence has committed together with the government to work diligently to find a durable solution for the problem.

According to the government of Aruba, "...the situation remains delicate and we must find a solution the soonest possible. But, we are grateful for the allotment of time that Valero has given us to find a solution. We will continue to work diligently to avoid more losses in the long term for Valero."

Some readers of The Morning News had some questions regarding this matter: What if the Aruba government hadn't stepped in and done what they did? It appears that the Aruba Valero Refinery is not doing anything to ensure their sus-

tainability here on Aruba. If they are...this is certainly not the impression that people here are getting. It would appear that they would just as soon pack up and take off to some greener pasture! It is difficult to believe that the contacts established by the government and the cooperative agreements reached were matters impossible for Valero to have accomplished on their own, and that it was imperative for the Aruba government to embark on these on the behalf of Valero! Such a multinational company as Valero most certainly would have all the necessary clout and know-how to facilitate these kinds of contacts and cooperative agreements without any intervention from the government. It seems more logical that the Valero Refinery would be the one inviting the support and concurrence of the government in their initiatives and pro-active strategies and not the other way around. But, then again...the people of Aruba does not always get all the facts to be able to make a fair judgement of the situation.

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Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Nos Ambiente, folkloric music by Tipico Ola Tropical, dance performance by Super Dancers, trio performance by Jacobs Family, declamation by Samantha Trinidad, soloist Quincy Hasham and brass band TBS. The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.

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Government introduces new salary payment system

ORANJESTAD - For almost one year a group of employees of the Department of Finance has been working on a software that is to change the system of salary payment of government employees.

That new system has been completed and will be applied as of this month for the first salary payment this January 2012. Public servants and others on the government payroll will receive their salaries as programmed by the system automatically on

the 24th of every month. Previously the DIA was in charge of the programming of salaries which was done by a rather outdated and obsolete ten-year old system.

The new system is now completely under the guidance of the Department of Finance. The new system is said to be much more friendly and understandable with an attractive layout. The payroll slip also contains additional information which is important for the govern-

ment as well as for the employee. The new system contains valuable statistical data relevant to the government when doing statistical research on for example, how many employees have an MBO diploma in government employ, etc. The system also guarantees the privacy of each employee's payslip. This system automatically feeds the payslip into an envelope and seals this, leaving only the names of employees visible.

The so-called "Bashi-premie" could not be included in the system to be paid a bit earlier. However, they assured us that as of 2013 the Bashi-premie will be paid on the 10th of January.

Contrary to what was announced earlier, instead of receiving their salaries this week, all public servants will be paid on Tuesday January 24th for the first time using this new payroll system.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama honors Martin Luther King Jr with school project

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama yesterday paid tribute to slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. by helping build a library reading nook at a local school, saying service and diversity make America the "strongest, most extraordinary country on earth."

The president, First Lady Michelle Obama and their daughter Malia marked King's birthday by helping spruce up the library at Browne Education Campus, named after 19th-century African-American rights advocate Hugh M. Browne. It serves elementary and junior high school students in a predominantly African-American community in north-east Washington.

Next to it is the historic Langston Legacy Golf Course, a formerly segregated course for African-American golfers.

Speaking underneath a sign reading "United we serve," Obama praised the nation's diversity.

"At a time when the country has been going through some difficult economic times, for us to be able to come together as a community, people from all different walks of life, and make sure that we're giving back, that's ultimately what makes us the strongest, most extraordinary country on earth," he said.

Obama, who is up for re-



election in November, has been criticized by some Republican opponents as not believing in American exceptionalism, the idea that the United States and its values are unique and worthy of imitation.

The Obamas greeted adults and children at the school, then headed to its library where they built book shelves and set out bean bags and sitting mats on the floor.

Balancing on a step-ladder, Obama painted words onto the wall: "The time is always right to do what is right," a quotation by King.

his year's King holiday came as officials in more than a dozen states implement new laws requiring voters to present photo identification at the polls. Critics say the restriction violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965 -- one of the key accomplishments of the move-

ment King led.

Across the nation, formal events such as prayer services, performances and parades were staged for King's birthday, which became a federal holiday in 1986. Post offices, government buildings and most public schools were closed.

Caracas recalls Miami consular staff amid 'threats'

CARACAS (AFP) - Amid an escalating diplomatic row, Venezuela yesterday recalled its US consular staff in Miami, saying they faced "grave and imminent danger."

The move by Caracas came days after President Hugo Chavez announced the closure of its consulate in Miami in the wake of the expulsion of consul general Livia Acosta, declared persona non grata on January 6.

A Venezuelan foreign ministry statement said the diplomatic and consular personnel in Miami "have been subjected to threats and intimidation," and that as a result face "a real, grave and imminent danger."

The Caracas government said all the personnel in Miami would return home and that it would "initiate a comprehen-

sive assessment of operating conditions and safety" in the Florida city.

The opposition criticized the closure, saying it would deprive an estimated 200,000 Venezuelans of consular services and make it difficult for those living in the Miami area to register for Venezuela's presidential elections later this year.

Washington and Caracas have had strained relations under Chavez and since 2010 have had no ambassadors.

In the US action earlier this month, no reason was given for the expulsion, but the State Department had been looking into a report that while serving in the Venezuelan embassy in Mexico, Acosta had discussed a campaign of cyber attacks against the United States.



MYRTLE BEACH : A sand sculpture picturing Republican presidential hopefuls (L-R) Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, former candidate Jon Huntsman, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul is set in front of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center ahead of a Republican debate in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on January 16, 2012. South Carolina will hold its Republican primary on January 21, 2012. (AFP PHOTO)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Liberia's Sirleaf takes presidential oath in 'land of hope'

MONROVIA (AFP) - Liberia's Nobel peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in yesterday in a lavish \$1.2 million ceremony and called for reconciliation after her re-election in disputed polls divided the nation.

With US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in attendance, the 73-year-old grandmother took the oath administered by the country's Chief Justice Johnnie Lewis as thousands looked on from the grounds of the capitol building.

"We have earned our rightful place as a beacon of democracy, a country of hope and of opportunity," Sirleaf said marking her ascent to a second term in office since the end of a brutal 14-year war. "The cleavages

that led to decades of war still run deep but so too does the longing for reconciliation."

Sirleaf said the nation needed a process of national healing not defined "by tribe, region, religions or ethnicity but by equality of opportunity and a better future for every Liberian." This meant "creating jobs, opportunities and giving our young people the skills they need to prosper and create the life they choose."

After a troubled election and riots mostly attended by youths who face high levels of unemployment, Sirleaf said government should offer a worthy education so young people "can get a job and know the dignity of receiving an honest day's wage."



SUDAN, EL-FASHER : In this image made available by the UN-African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID), a Sudanese man plays on a traditional drum during a welcoming ceremony at El-Fasher airport for officials attending the second meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission (IFC) on the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) at the UNAMID headquarters in the northern troubled province on January 16, 2012. At least 300,000 people have been killed in Darfur and 1.8 million people forced to flee their homes since non-Arab rebels first rose up against the Arab-dominated Khartoum regime in 2003, according to the United Nations. (AFP PHOTO)

Larry the cat joins David Cameron in Downing Street

AFP photo shows Larry the Downing Street cat on the step outside number 10 Downing Street in central London on January 16, 2012.

David Cameron has welcomed a cat to Downing Street in an effort to deal with No 10's rat problem.

The four-year old tabby, called Larry, was at London's Battersea Dogs and Cats Home before moving in to the UK Prime Minister's home.

The arrival follows weeks of speculation about potential pest control measures after a large black rat was seen scuttling past No 10.

A Downing Street spokesman said the former stray was a "good ratter".



Emergency crews scour Italy wreck for cruise victims

GIGLIO ISLAND (AFP) - Italian divers and mountain rescue teams scoured the wreck of a luxury liner crashed on the shores of Tuscany yesterday as hopes faded of finding any more survivors on board.

Choppy seas forced a temporary evacuation of the stricken 17-deck Costa Concordia for several hours after the half-submerged ship slipped on a rocky shelf under the sea, sparking fears that the giant hulk could sink entirely.

Emergency workers said at least 15 people were still missing, including American, French, German and Italian tourists. The death toll also rose to six after the body of a man was found by divers in the early hours of yesterday.

"The conditions inside are disastrous. It's very difficult. The corridors are cluttered and it's hard for the divers to swim through," Rodolfo Raiteri, head of the coastguard's diving team told AFP on the shore.

Three of the victims -- two Frenchmen and one Peruvian crew member -- drowned after jumping into the chilly winter Mediterranean waters along with dozens of others in a chaotic evacuation in the Friday the 13th tragedy.

Survivors returned home with harrowing accounts of panic on board.

The local mayor voiced hope of finding more people alive, but also warned that the stricken vessel, which hit rocks and keeled over off Giglio island, was an "ecological time-bomb" in the pristine waters of a marine nature reserve.

"You never know in the labyrinth of that ship. An air pocket could have allowed people to survive a few days mayor," Sergio Orтели told AFP.

The head of the company which owns the monster vessel said it had hit a rock as a result of an "inexplicable" error by the captain, Francesco Schettino, who was arrested on Saturday along with first officer

Ciro Ambrosio.

"He carried out a manoeuvre which had not been approved by us and we disassociate ourselves from such behaviour," said Pier Luigi Foschi, the boss of Costa Crociere, Europe's largest cruise operator.

But Foschi also paid tribute to the other crew members, saying they had "all behaved like heroes."

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Health & Living

Armed and avid, German women turn to hunting



NAUEN (AFP) - With a chill wind whistling through the raised hide set among the trees and undergrowth, Johanna Hofmann sweeps her hair back from her face as she watches and listens, her rifle to hand.

Wrapped up warmly but elegantly in a green rain- and windproof jacket, scarf, jeans, mittens and wellington boots, Hofmann, 31, is one of Germany's growing number of women hunters.

Every animal, be it a wild boar, fox, deer, rabbit or bird, makes a different noise in the forest, she said. When she spots a potential target, she picks up her rifle, takes aim and holds her breath.

"I try to keep completely quiet, composed inside and concentrated, and breathe quietly because of course I'm

quite excited. And I have to be sure it's safe and it'll be a good shot," she said.

Her pearl earrings, nose piercing, light make-up and varnished nails delicately offset the 3.5-kilo (7.7-pound) hunting rifle she carries over her shoulder, a weapon not far off being as tall as she is.

Like for many women, Hofmann, who has been hunting for five years, said one of the attractions was the chance to train and hunt with her dog, an excitable, two-year-old German shorthaired pointer called Anka.

Germany has seen a tenfold jump in the number of women who hunt over the last 15 years, according to the German Hunting Association, heralding the fall of another male bastion.

"Fifteen years ago we had about one percent female hunters in Germany. Today the ratio is about 10 percent female hunters, so that adds up to roughly 35,000 female hunters," spokesman Torsten Reinwald told AFP.

He said women currently made up just under a quarter of all those who sit the exam to obtain a permit to hunt in Germany.

Women also take up hunting because they want to eat fresh game, which they consider to be healthier and of better quality than store-bought meat, or

to spend time outside the city getting close to nature, he added.

Nature conservation is another factor cited by women, he said, adding that by law, land used for agriculture, fishing or forestry in Germany had to be hunted to prevent disease due to overpopulation or damage from over-feeding.

With the knife she carries in her shoulder bag in the forest near the town of Nauen, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Berlin, Hofmann removes the innards of whatever she hunts, takes it to be weighed and registered at the forestry office, pays for the meat and then takes it home.

She cooks and eats what she kills and shuns supermarket meat -- Christmas dinner this year was a deer she had hunted and prepared herself which she said gave "real value" to the meal.

"Many people eat meat that comes from the supermarket and they don't question where that meat comes from, but (say) a hunter is a murderer. That's a paradox," she said.

-- "Have respect for the animal" --

Having studied forestry, she works as an adviser at the Hunting Association and, unless it is raining heavily, hunts once a week with her boyfriend, whom she met at a game biologists' conference.

Inequality in wealthy states rises, diseases decline: WHO

GENEVA (AFP) - Social inequality in wealthy nations is increasing while in parts of the developing world many diseases are on the wane, Margaret Chan, head of the World Health Organization said Monday.

"In some wealthy countries, the difference in the quality of life between the older generation and today's youth is the greatest ever recorded," said the WHO director general, speaking at the opening of the body's board meeting.

"Last year was a time when many countries realised they were losing their middle classes, the very foundation of democracy and economic productivity," she said, urging that a commitment to public health must be sustained.

In a text version of her speech Chan cited a recent Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report showing income inequality in wealthy nations

has reached the worst levels in nearly 25 years.

"That report further concluded that societies with the least inequality had the best health outcomes, regardless of the levels of spending on health," Chan said, noting, "money alone does not buy better health."

She stated: "Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most," but this is not what happened last year, particularly in well-off nations, according to numerous reports.

In large parts of the developing world vast inequalities in access to health care also exist, she explained.

"But misery, for many groups, for many diseases, is actually going down. Those who benefit least are getting help from those who benefit most," said Chan.

She noted that in the first decade of the 21st century,

HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics peaked, beginning a slow decline along with a turn around in a deteriorating malaria situation.

"Young child mortality dropped below 10 million for the first time in nearly six decades. Compared with 12 million under-five deaths in 1990, the figure for 2010 was 7.6 million, a drop of more than 40 percent."

Chan said that in sub-Saharan Africa the fall in the under-five mortality rate was accelerating at double the rate it had shown between 1990 and 2000.

Maternal deaths worldwide, "the starkest statistic in public health," have also begun to fall, she said.

In addition, "In 2009 alone, an estimated 800 million people received preventive chemotherapy for at least one of the neglected tropical diseases."

SCABECHE

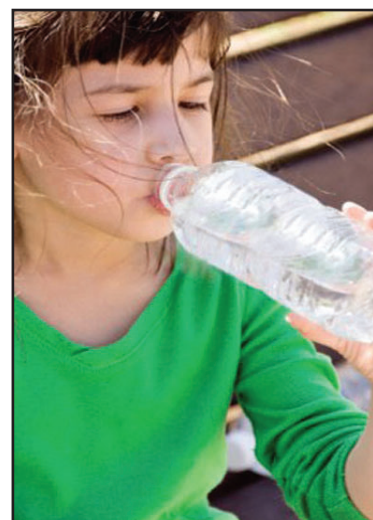
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<p>SUNDAY ARUBAN BBQ Serve from 12n till 8 PM</p>	<p>SPECIAL \$15⁰⁰</p>
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Dehydration



Signs of Dehydration

Thirst is one indicator of dehydration, but it is not an early warning sign. By the time you feel thirsty, you might already be dehydrated. Other symptoms of dehydration include:

- feeling dizzy and light-headed
- having a dry or sticky mouth
- producing less urine and darker urine
- Tiredness and or Headache

Preventing Dehydration

The easiest way to avoid dehydration is to drink lots of fluids, especially on hot, dry, windy days. Water is usually the best choice. Drinking water does not add calories to your diet and can be great for your health.

The amount that people need to drink will depend on factors like how much water they're getting from foods and other liquids and how much they're sweating from physical exertion.

Definition

Water makes up around 70 per cent of the human body. It's important for digestion, joint function, healthy skin and removal of waste products.


Dehydration occurs when you lose more fluid than you take in, and your body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions. If you don't replace lost fluids, you may get dehydrated.

Causes of dehydration.

Common causes of dehydration include intense diarrhea, vomiting, fever or excessive sweating. Not drinking enough water during hot weather or exercise also may cause dehydration. Anyone may become dehydrated, but young children, older adults and people with chronic illnesses are most at risk.



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Europe's Vega rocket launch set for early February



The Vega rocket is seen in Kourou, French Guiana, in 2007.

(AFP) - The maiden voyage of Europe's Vega rocket, designed to launch small payloads of about 1.5 tonnes into low-Earth orbit, is set for February 9, the head of the European Space Agency announced.

The rocket is scheduled to lift the LARES (Laser Relativity Satellite), along with several other micro-satellites, from the Ariane launch site in Kourou, French Guiana.

The ESA had hoped to put the first Vega into space as early as 2009, and in October set a January 30 date for the light rocket's first voyage.

"Goodness knows it is a very difficult campaign. Everything is new," ESA's Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain said at a press conference. Dordain, adding that he was confident the new date would hold.

Bringing Vega on line means that Europe will have completed its three-pronged launch capability.

Heavy-lifter Ariane ES can hoist the 20 tonnes Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) supply module to the International Space Station, while the Ariane ECA is designed mainly to lift communications satellites weighing up to 10 tonnes into geostationary orbit.

The Russian workhorse Soyuz rocket, launched for the first time from the Ariane site in October, carries mid-sized loads.

The Russian workhorse Soyuz rocket, launched for the first time from the Ariane site in October, carries mid-sized loads.



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Dinner

Monday - Sunday
6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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Sci-Tech

Almost 3,000-year-old tomb of female singer found in Egypt



A handout picture released by Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities on January 15, 2012 shows the grave of Nany of the 22nd Dynasty, a singer of the Egyptian deity Amun-Re, which was discovered near the Temple of Karnak in the southern ancient city of Luxor during excavations by Swiss archaeologists.

CAIRO (AFP) - Swiss archaeologists have discovered the tomb of a female singer dating back almost 3,000 years in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, Antiquities Minister Mohammed Ibrahim said on Sunday.

The rare find was made accidentally by a team from Switzerland's Basel University headed by Elena Pauline-Grothe and Susanne Bickel in Karnak, near Luxor in Upper Egypt, the minister told the media in Cairo.

The woman, Nehmes Bastet, was a singer for the supreme deity Amon Ra during the Twenty-Second Dynasty (945-712 BC), according to an inscription on a wooden plaque found in the tomb.

She was the daughter of the High Priest of Amon, Ibrahim said.

The discovery is important

because "it shows that the Valley of the Kings was also used for the burial of ordinary individuals and priests of the Twenty-Second Dynasty," he added.

Until now the only tombs found in the historic valley were those linked to ancient Egyptian royal families.

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your
boobies.



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check your breasts
every month

COMICS

PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. "___ Little Acre"
5. Old Norse works
10. Country mostly in the Sahara
14. Provide a hideout, perhaps
15. Be frugal with leftovers
16. Well-matched
17. Start of an observation
19. Moony poet's topic
20. "The ___ is not to the swift..." (Eccles. 8:11)
21. Second part of the observation
23. Home
25. McHale's org.
27. Map part
28. Sigur ___

- (Icelandic rock group)
29. Connected
32. Parisian roast
34. Wok, e.g.
35. Category
40. Third part of the observation
43. Killed a bill, slangily
44. Unit of length
45. River to the North Sea
46. Some women's dresses
49. Poet Mark ___
50. Action film feature
54. Existed, once
55. Stadium decks
57. Fourth part of the observation
59. Turgenev's "Fathers and ___"

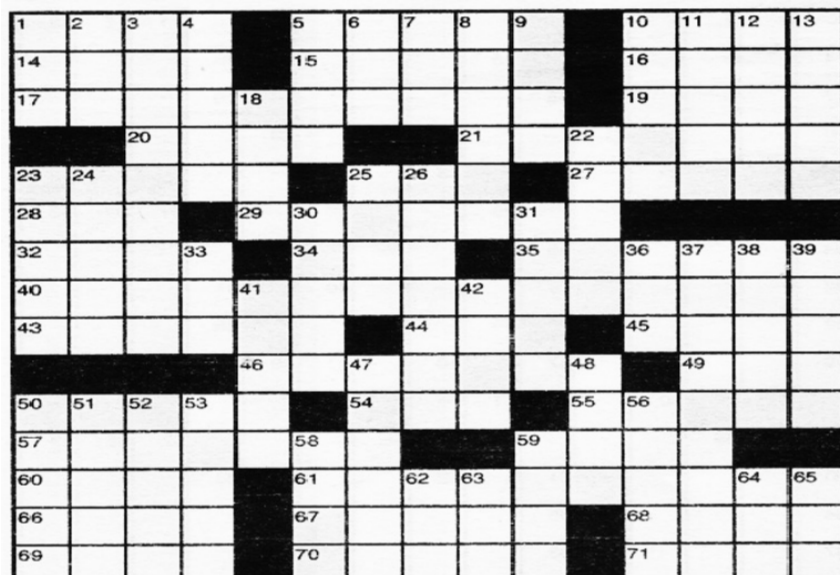
60. "___ di Donna" (1981 film)
61. End of the observation
66. Trickle
67. Chopin composition
68. Measure filler
69. First verse's ending in "Amazing Grace"
70. Ancient Greek harps
71. Completes

DOWN

1. Sal, for one
2. Sash's Japanese cousin
3. Winter driver's need
4. Advantage
5. Scots Gaelic
6. Dover's st.
7. Sot's offense: abbr.

CLEAN LIVING

8. Obliquely
9. Views
10. Crenshaw, for one
11. Declares
12. "When the ___ Breaks" (Led Zeppelin)
13. Sluggish
18. Baker's aide
22. Doggo one
23. Paella base
24. Frontiersman Daniel
25. ___ Bator
26. Fruity wine concoction
30. Lyric poem
31. Escape from
33. "Sands of ___ Jima"
36. Dijon donkey
37. Gulf of Mexico resort
38. Remove a bolt, e.g.
39. Anthony and Barbara
41. Hold off
42. Children
47. Number of faces on an icosahedron
48. Pack, maritime-style
50. Ms. Lauper
51. Day units
52. WWII hero Murphy
53. Spot for a snow bunny
56. Goofy
58. Actress Jessica ("7th Heaven")
59. Agnes and Anne, e.g.: abbr.
62. Wallace's hero
63. Poem that praises
64. Airport sked letters
65. ___ adjudicata

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Care Center
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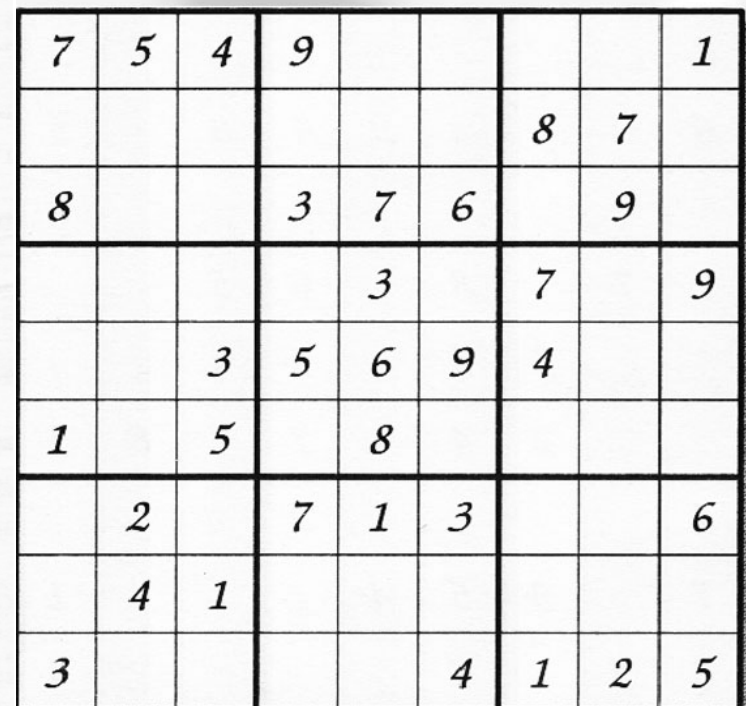
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
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582-5447
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

S	Z	I	P	6	8	L	9	E
L	8	E	Z	S	9	I	P	6
9	P	6	E	I	L	8	Z	S
E	9	Z	L	8	P	S	E	L
8	I	P	6	9	S	E	L	Z
6	S	L	I	E	Z	9	8	P
P	6	S	9	L	E	Z	I	8
Z	L	8	S	P	I	6	E	9
I	E	9	8	Z	6	P	S	L

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

France warns Europe faces 'unprecedented crisis'

MADRID (AFP) - French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned yesterday that Europe faces an "unprecedented crisis" but urged calm in the face of Standard & Poor's multiple eurozone credit rating downgrades.

Sarkozy issued the warning in Madrid where he was the first foreign leader to meet with Spain's new conservative prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, since his swearing-in December 21.

"We are confronted by an unprecedented crisis that forces us to cut spending, lower our deficits but also to find the path to new growth by resolving our competitiveness problems," Sarkozy said.

Standard & Poor's cut the credit rating of nine debt-laden European countries Friday, including stripping France of its

top-notch AAA rating and slashing Spain's rating by two notches.

Moody's Investors Service soothed some of the pain yesterday, confirming France's AAA rating while continuing to review whether it will maintain its "stable" outlook.

"Fundamentally it changes nothing," said Sarkozy, who is facing an uphill battle for re-election in April.

"We have to reduce our deficits, cut spending, improve our countries' competitiveness to rediscover growth," he said, calling on people "not to panic" and to "react to these decisions by keeping our cool."

"I don't plan to take into account what this or that person says," the French leader said, nevertheless describing the agencies' ratings as "interesting elements".

Spain's leader, holding his first news conference since he took power, agreed.

"In the end, the most decisive thing is that each country follow its own path," Rajoy said.

The new right-leaning Spanish government has announced 8.9 billion euros (\$11 billion) in budget cuts, tax increases to bring in 6.28 billion euros and an anti-tax fraud battle to recoup another 8.17 billion euros.

Rajoy said at the weekend that Spain, which declared a towering 21.5-percent unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2011, now had an "astronomical" figure of 5.4 million jobless.

The Spanish leader gave his support to a French-backed scheme to impose a tax on financial transactions.

Hydrocarbons found off Rio state, says OGX oil group

SAO PAULO (AFP) - The Brazilian OGX energy group yesterday announced it had found oil and gas in two sections of a well in shallow waters off Rio de Janeiro state.

It said a hydrocarbon column of roughly 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) was found in Albian reservoirs and that the drilling of the well, still in

progress, identified "hydrocarbons through a high gas presence that resulted in a kick, which is being controlled."

The OGX-63 well, known as Fortaleza, is located in the BM-S-57 block and is located roughly 100 kilometers (60 miles) in the Santos basin off Rio de Janeiro state at a

water depth of approximately 155 meters (500 feet), the Rio-based company said.

"This discovery is important for the large hydrocarbon column and net pay (net thickness of oil reservoir) identified in the Albian section, as well as the quality of the Aptian reservoir and its behavior," said Paulo Mendonca, OGX's general executive and exploration officer.

Egypt denies petrol crisis after Cairo gridlock



AFP photo shows an Egyptian worker filling a customer's tank as cars queue at a petrol station in Cairo yesterday amid fears of an oil shortage. Egypt's oil ministry yesterday dismissed claims of petrol shortages in the country as huge queues formed outside petrol stations, saying authorities were already pumping 21.5 million litres daily. "We are currently pumping 21.5 million litres of petrol daily across the country to meet the needs of the local market," oil ministry under-secretary Mahmud Nazim told reporters. He said nine million litres daily were allocated to the Cairo governorate alone.

Investment banks need 4 times more capital under Basel rules

PARIS (AFP) - In order to comply with new Basel III reforms, banks would need four times as much capital to cover risks taken by their investment bank units, a study by consultancy firm Sia Conseil said yesterday.

Regulators drew up tougher Basel III capital rules in a bid to prevent a repeat of the 2008-2009 financial crisis when governments were forced to bail out banks.

Financial institutions have up to 2019 to implement the stricter regulations.

According to Sia Conseil, the rules have a "triple penalising effect" for investment banks, as they impose a more demanding evaluation of risks, greater restrictions on eligible capital held by banks, as well as a significantly higher ratio of capital.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 01/16/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.72	1.74	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.66	2.71	2.77
Switzerland	CHF	186.41	187.13	187.93
Netherlands	EUR	223.60	225.64	227.91
Sweden	SEK	24.43	25.15	25.95
Denmark	DKK	29.38	30.10	30.90
Norway	NOK	28.44	29.16	29.96
Japan	JPY	229.92	232.02	234.35
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

GAZA economic situation very precarious



RAFAH : Palestinian women are seen in a small laboratory manufacturing perfumes to sell locally in the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip on January 8, 2012. A report released in October 2011 by the World Bank, reveals a precarious economic situation in Gaza, where donor aid is keeping the economy afloat, unemployment is high, and a significant portion of the population lives very close to the poverty line. (AFP PHOTO)

Among them are French bank Societe Generale which recently said it would eliminate more than 1,500 investment bank posts and state-rescued Royal Bank of Scotland which said it would cut 3,500 jobs.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	L	O	W	S	P	A	I	D	L	O	M	A
A	E	R	I	E	A	L	D	A	O	P	U	S
J	A	Z	Z	S	I	N	G	E	R	O	A	T
A	D	O	T	N	T	S	T	A	N	L	E	Y
T	E	D	S	T	E	E	L	E				
L	I	G	H	T	E	S	T		D	A	Y	B
E	R	L	E		B	A	R	E		S	T	O
T	E	A	M		T	R	E	S	S		U	N
I	N	D	U	S		A	T	T	U		N	E
N	E	E	S	O	N		C	O	N	V	E	R
I	R	I	S	H		T	A	S				
A	T	A	C	A	M	A	P	A	S		T	O
N	O	R	M		B	R	I	A	N	S	S	O
T	U	N	A		L	A	S	S		A	U	G
E	T	O	N		E	N	O	S		L	E	A

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4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket
5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;
6. **Grand Prize:**
Airfare for two to Bonaire with Tiara Airlines and other fabulous prizes

Photo contest prizes: You must subscribe to submit

1. Send us your favorite carnival pix via e-mail or deliver to our office on Caya Betico Croes Just across from the Valero station.
2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS
3. Contest begins today and deadline for submissions of photos is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM; drawing for raffle will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 22.
4. Judging is final; winners will be announced in Friday's paper, February 24.
5. Each photo submission earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

Prizes for the Carnival photo Contest:

Grand Prize: 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments
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Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Carnival promotion and owners retain all rights.

Win airfare to Bonaire and other great prizes - no purchase necessary! Send us your Carnaval pix and see them published

Horror of violence and death devastate South Sudanese



PIBOR (AFP) - Sitting on the edge of the bed beside his nine-year-old daughter recovering from a gunshot wounds, Mangiro recounted how he lost the rest of his family in recent tribal clashes in South Sudan's troubled state of Jonglei.

"This child was carried by her mother, and her mother was killed", the next day we carried the child out from under her mother," said Mangiro, who did not give a second name.

"They were gunned down as a family. Her mother and sisters, all four of them are dead there", he added, glancing at his surviving daughter Ngathim.

An unknown number of people -- at least dozens, some fear hundreds -- were killed in tribal clashes this month in Jonglei, declared a "disaster zone" by the Juba government, with the UN warning some 60,000 people had been affected by the violence and are in need of emergency aid.

In Pibor's clinic run by medical charity Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres-MSF), Ngathim was in one of the few functioning rooms after attackers looted and ransacked the town's only concrete structure and medical facility.

The euphoria of South Sudan's independence six months ago after decades of civil war with the north was shared by all, but violent cracks in the new state now threaten to split it wide open.

In a dramatic escalation of bitter tit-for-tat attacks, a militia army of around 8,000 Lou Nuer youths recently marched on Pibor county, attacking villages and taking children and cows away with them, to exact revenge on the Murle whom they blame for abductions and cattle raiding.

From the air, black spots pockmarking the earth show where homes and fields were

razed as attackers left villages smouldering in their wake. Large herds of stolen cattle were also seen being driven towards Nuer villages.

In Gumruk, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Pibor, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) registered more than 2,000 people this week who fled attacks on surrounding villages.

"We were just sitting at home, and then we were attacked -- these Nuer guys came in with their machetes and started cutting people and so we ran", said Ismiah Shan, a mother of eight who saw villagers shot and slashed with knives, spears or machetes in Thaugnyang, two hours' walk away.

The government has confirmed around 80 people killed in revenge attacks in Lou Nuer areas this week, but the UN and government cannot confirm the number of Murle killed in the first assault.

Some estimates by local government officials in the thousands are not yet verified, as teams assess a vast area lacking roads.

Access difficulties and a state the size of Bangladesh have been cited as the reason why UN peacekeepers and

government troops failed to stop the deadly column advancing.

Others say troops were dispatched late and clearly outnumbered, or were hesitant to intervene in a tribal conflict that last year killed around 1,100 people in a series of cattle raids.

When the violence started, Philip Mama Alan fled his village of Lawol, three hours' walk from Gumruk, but ran into more attackers.

"These people came and took some of my colleagues. One of them came and held my hand and said 'sit down'. Before I sat down, I saw them kill my colleagues and so I ran," he said.

Running for his life, Alan

described the scene as a "slaughter", saying the men were gunned down and women knifed.

He does not want revenge, just for the government to build roads to bring trade into the neglected state, that was one of the worst hit during the decades of civil war with the north.

In the meantime, the huddled masses sitting in glaring sun outside food distribution centres in Pibor and Gumruk were not thinking about home. Many had been living off wild berries and said there is nothing to go back to after they saw villages destroyed. Others seemed to be taking matters into their own hands in an effort to regain their livelihood.

Carnaval Schedule

January - Wk 3

Friday Jan. 20: * Jump Up - Oranjestad - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Jan. 21: * Children & Youth Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Joe Laveist - 7 p.m.
Sunday Jan. 22: * Balloon Parade - San Nicolas - 1 p.m.
 * Inscription Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Bonaire Club - 5 p.m.

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



The Farmer Burger with the Best Onion Rings

Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORTS

Five-time enduro world champion Mika Ahola dies at 37



HELSINKI (AFP) - Mika Ahola, five-time and reigning Enduro world champion, died at the weekend in a Barcelona hospital, the sport's governing body in Finland said Monday,

amid reports the 37-year-old had died of injuries suffered during training.

"According to information received by the Finnish Motor Sport Association, Enduro world champion Mika Ahola has passed away," read the brief statement posted on the group's website late Monday, providing no further details.

Finnish public broadcaster YLE however reported the 37-years-old, who had announced his retirement from Enduro

racing on January 1, had died Sunday evening in Barcelona, Spain, where he was being treated for internal injuries.

According to reports, he suffered the injuries when he crashed during casual training in Girona, Spain a few weeks ago.

Ahola was also a seven-time winner of the International Six Days Enduro world trophy with the Finnish team.

Enduro is a form of motorcycle sport run predominantly on off-road courses. The World Enduro Championship features a number of stages raced against the clock in a time trial.

China basketball star Yao Ming enters politics

SHANGHAI (AFP) - Not content with owning a basketball team, studying business and making wine, China's former NBA superstar Yao Ming has now become the youngest -- and tallest -- legislative advisor in Shanghai.

The 31-year-old was formally

accepted as a member of an advisory body to Shanghai's legislature at the weekend -- a position that entitles him to make proposals for possible new laws -- the official China Daily reported.

A photograph printed by the newspaper shows the 2.29-

metre (7-foot, 6-inch) Yao towering above other newly selected members of the advisory body -- his latest venture since he formally retired from the Houston Rockets in July.

Yao is China's first global sports superstar with a personal brand valued at more than \$1 billion.

Tennis: Soderling hopeful of Rotterdam return

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Sweden's Robin Soderling is hoping to return to action at the Rotterdam Open in mid-February after six months out with mononucleosis.

"For the moment we don't have the exact date of his return. He's feeling better but it's important not to rush his return

so as not to suffer a relapse," his agent Nina Wennerstroem told the daily Dagens Nyheter on Monday.

The world number 12 is struggling to recover from the illness and has cancelled all engagements up until the February 13-19 Rotterdam tournament.

ment.

The former world number four has not played since mid-July when he won in Baastad - his fourth title of the season after Brisbane, Rotterdam and Marseille.

The 27-year-old is a two-time French Open runner-up.

Giants end Green Bay's reign

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The Packers, who had a first-round bye, became the winningest team ever to drop its playoff opener.

A Chase Blackburn fumble recovery set up a 4-yard touchdown toss from Manning to Mario Manningham for a 30-13 lead.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers responded with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver with 4:46 to play, but New York answered with a 14-yard touchdown run by Brandon Jacobs with 2:36 remaining for the final points.

At Baltimore, Lewis made a team-high seven tackles and the Ravens forced four turnovers, two of them interceptions by Ladarius Webb, to set up 17 points and spoil

the first playoff trip in the Texans' 10-year history.

Houston's Jacoby Jones fumbled away a punt at the Texans' 3-yard line to set up a 1-yard touchdown pass from Flacco to Kris Wilson that put the Ravens ahead for good only 5:09 into the game.

Webb intercepted a pass from Houston rookie T.J. Yates at the Texan 34-yard line and the Ravens took advantage on a 10-yard touchdown pass from Flacco to Anquan Boldin for a 17-3 lead after the first quarter.

"We knew what was coming. We knew it was going to be tough," Lewis said. "When we got up 17-3 the No. 1 thing I told everybody was they were going to make a rally. At the end of the

game, we made the plays that counted."

Neil Rackers closed the gap for Houston with a 33-yard field goal 3:18 into the second quarter and the Texans drove 86 yards to reach the end zone on a 1-yard Arian Foster run 9:30 later to pull within 17-13 at halftime.

"Nobody holds onto a four-point lead in this league like that except the Ravens," said Baltimore coach John Harbaugh, whose brother Jim coaches San Francisco.

Defenders dominated in the second half, the only points coming on a Billy Cundiff field goal with 2:42 to play.



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Basketball: US look to experience with dash of youth

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The United States will lean on proven champions, with perhaps a dash of youth, for the defence of the Olympic basketball title at this year's London Games.

USA basketball on Monday named a 20-player pool from which the 12-man Olympic squad will be named in June.

Blake Griffin, the explosive young star of the Los Angeles Clippers, and LaMarcus Aldridge are the only two candidates who haven't won international gold for America in the past four years.

The other 18 all represented the United States at either the 2008 Beijing Olympics or the 2010 World Championships.

Those returning from the triumphant Beijing team are Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh, Carmelo Anthony, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul and Deron Williams.

From the victorious 2010 World Championship team are Kevin Durant, Derrick Rose, Tyson Chandler, Eric Gordon, Rudy Gay, Kevin Love, Lamar Odom, Chauncey Billups, Russell Westbrook and Andre Iguodala.

"I feel like we have an outstanding blend of talents from the 2008 Olympic and 2010 World Championship teams that won gold," said head coach Mike Krzyzewski. "Reducing to the official roster limit of 12 players will be an even tougher decision, but we'll evaluate how guys play during the 2011-12 NBA season and as we've done with our teams in the past, we'll attempt to select the very best team we can."

Three of the finalists are two-time Olympic medalists. Anthony won bronze at Athens in 2004 as well as gold in Beijing, as did James and Wade.

The finalists represent 14 different NBA teams, with the Miami Heat and Los Clippers leading the way with three players each.



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NFL: Giants end Green Bay's reign while Ravens advance



Deon Grant #34 of the New York Giants breaks up a pass intended for Ryan Grant #25 of the Green Bay Packers during their NFC Divisional playoff game at Lambeau Field.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Eli Manning threw for a career playoff high 330 yards and three touchdowns to power the New York Giants to a 37-20 upset of reigning Super Bowl champion Green Bay in an NFL playoff shocker on Sunday.

Hakeem Nicks caught seven passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns and Giants defenders forced four turnovers as the host Packers, who went an NFL-best 15-1 this season and averaged 35 points a game, were ousted in sub-freezing cold.

"It shows our hard work and determination," Nicks said. "We're peaking right when we need to. We're stronger than we have been all season. We just want it."

As a result, New York avenged a regular-season home loss to the Packers and joined the Baltimore Ravens in advancing to next Sunday's playoff showdowns that will decide berths in Super Bowl 46 at Indianapolis on Febru-

ary 5.

"We can go as far as we want to go," Nicks said. "We've got a bunch of guys who believe, and we can do anything if we believe."

The Ravens, who ousted visiting Houston 20-13, will visit New England in the American Conference final while the Giants will visit the San Francisco 49ers, who ousted New Orleans 36-32 on Saturday, in the National Conference final.

"I think we're a dangerous team," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "There are always things for us to improve

upon but I like where we are."

Baltimore's Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes to lead the Ravens, who know the challenge they face after seeing the Patriots rout Denver 45-10 on Saturday.

"What they did to the Broncos, they sent a message to whoever was coming up there," Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis said. "We have to be ready for them."

The Giants, who needed a regular season-ending victory over Dallas to take the last vacant playoff berth, started slow but are one win shy of their first Super Bowl since beating New England in 2008.

"We started to believe and trust in each other and our defensive people got together and decided they were better than they'd been playing," Coughlin said. "They had success and success breeds confidence."

Manning, who completed 21 of 33 passes, tossed a 37-yard touchdown pass to a high-leaping Nicks on the last play of the second quarter to give New York a 20-10 lead, the first time Green Bay trailed at half-time at home this season.

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Tennis: Nadal, Federer play down Open feud



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves against Alexander Kudryavtsev of Russia in their first round men's singles match on day one of the 2012 Australian Open.

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Long-time rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal sought to play down a rare public spat between them as both enjoyed crushing round-one wins at the Australian Open on Monday.

Federer said he was "completely cool" despite Nadal accusing him of not pushing hard enough for better players' rights, while the Spaniard regretted his comments made to media earlier.

"Things are fine between us, you know. I have no hard feelings towards him," Federer said.

"He's mentioned many times how he gets a bit tired

and frustrated through the whole process, and I shared that with him. It's normal," he added.

"But for me, obviously nothing changes in terms of our relationship. I'm completely cool and relaxed about it. He seemed the same way -- or at least I hope so."

The short-lived row threatened to overshadow day one action at the year's first grand slam, where women's champion Kim Clijsters went through in straight sets alongside last year's runner-up, Li Na of China.

And as temperatures soared to 34 degrees Celsius (93 de-

grees Fahrenheit), Australian teen Bernard Tomic came from two sets down to beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco in the pick of the men's action.

Nadal admitted he probably should not have taken Federer to task so publicly. He had complained that the ATP Player Council president was not speaking out on issues such as more prize money and an easier schedule.

"These things can stay, must stay in the locker room," Nadal told journalists.

"I always had a fantastic relationship with Roger. I still have a fantastic relationship with Roger. That's what it should be, in my opinion. Don't create crazy histories about what I said yesterday, please.

Nadal also revealed he suffered sudden and crippling knee pain on Sunday which threatened to end his tournament, before recovering after intensive medical attention.

The 2009 champion, who has had injury problems on his past two visits to Melbourne Park, put the emergency behind him to beat American Alex Kuznetsov 6-4, 6-1, 6-1.

Federer had an easy 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 workout against Russia's Alexander Kudryavtsev, a player so obscure that he had to scour the Internet in an effort to learn about his game.

"I heard a few things about him on the Internet and I knew what to expect although I didn't know his favourite shots or weaknesses," he said.

Nineteen-year-old Tomic had the performance of the day when he came from two sets behind to win 4-6, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 against Verdasco, who draped himself in ice packs and battled nausea in the hot afternoon sun.

"If it was someone else, I think they would have thrown in the towel," Tomic said. "I don't know how I found the energy today."

Former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro saw off Adrian Mannarino in four sets, and China's French Open champion Li also suffered in the heat during her 6-3, 6-1 win over Kazakhstan's Ksenia Pervak.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters raced into the second round and third seed Victoria Azarenka maintained her winning start to 2012 with a comprehensive 6-1, 6-0 demolition of Britain's Heather Watson.

Top seed Caroline Wozni-

acki began her latest bid for a maiden grand slam with an easy victory over Australia's Anastasia Rodionova, and third seed Victoria Azarenka stayed unbeaten in 2012 by demolishing Briton Heather Watson.

In the men's draw Czech seventh seed Tomas Berdych accounted for Albert Ramos in four sets, Stanislas Wawrinka beat Frenchman Benoit Paire in straight sets and American eighth seed Mardy Fish downed Luxembourg's Gilles Muller.

Spanish 10th seed Nicolas Almagro knocked out Poland's Lukasz Kubot, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 and Germany's Tommy Haas ousted American qualifier Denis Kudla in four sets.

David Nalbandian went through when Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, who won last week's Sydney International after coming through qualifying, retired in the second set with strained stomach muscles.

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